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Among others who have joined the graduate department this year are Miss Phœbe Waterman, of the Solar Observatory on Mount Wilson; Mr. John H. Pitman, who holds a Fellowship from Swarthmore College, and Miss Elva A. Henry, of Pomona College.

Mr. R. K. Young and Paul W. Merrill, Fellows in the Lick Observatory, are spending this year in graduate study at Berkeley.

There is a marked increase in the attendance of graduate students this year, the total number registered in the Lick and Berkeley Astronomical Departments being fifteen. Practically all of these are studying for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

A. O. Leuschner.

Berkeley Astronomical Department,
September 11, 1911.

Second Elements of Comet *c* 1911 (Brooks).

The following set of elements of Comet *c* 1911, (Brooks), has been computed from observations taken at the Lick Observatory by Dr. Aitken and Mr. Kiess on July 21st, August 4th, and August 18th:

ELEMENTS.

$$
\begin{array}{rl}
T = & \text{Oct. } 27.6825 \text{ Gr. M. T.} \\
\left.\begin{array}{r} \omega = \\ \text{☊} = \\ i = \end{array}\begin{array}{rrr} 152^\circ & 50' & 29''.7 \\ 293 & 5 & 15.3 \\ 33 & 56 & 6.1 \end{array}\right\} & 1911.0. \\
q = & 0.489506
\end{array}
$$

Constants for the Equator 1911.0.

$$
\begin{aligned}
x &= r[9.933523] \sin(180^\circ\ 2'\ \ 7''.4 + v) \\
y &= r[9.928072] \sin(\ 68\ \ 0\ \ 31\ .3 + v) \\
z &= r[9.868476] \sin(123\ \ 8\ \ \ 2\ .4 + v)
\end{aligned}
$$

Although these parabolic elements admit of some improvement, the residual of — 14″ in the first declination indicates, according to the method of solution, that the orbit is slightly elliptic. The parabolic elements, however, given above, will represent the motion of the comet with sufficient accuracy for some weeks to come. An observation taken by Mr. D. W. Morehouse at the Students' Observatory on September 4th is represented as follows, o — c:

$$\cos\delta\,\Delta\alpha = +9'', \qquad \Delta\delta = -22''.$$

REYNOLD K. YOUNG.

BERKELEY ASTRONOMICAL DEPARTMENT,
September 11, 1911.

EPHEMERIS OF COMET *c* 1911 (BROOKS).

From the foregoing parabolic elements by Mr. YOUNG an ephemeris to October 29, 1911, has been computed which is published, with the elements, in L. O. Bulletin No. 202. From this ephemeris it appears that the comet, already easily seen with the naked eye, will reach its maximum brightness about the middle of October. Although it passes the Sun in right ascension on October 12, it does not set until two hours after sunset on that date, owing to its more northerly declination. It should therefore be a fairly conspicuous object in the early evening sky until the middle of the month. On October 29th[1] the comet rises more than two hours before the Sun and should be visible in the eastern sky just before daylight.

E. S. HAYNES,
J. H. PITMAN.

September 11, 1911.

NOTE ON THE SPECTRUM OF P *CYGNI*.

P *Cygni* ($\alpha = 20^h\ 14.1^m$, $\delta = 37^\circ\ 43'$, visual magnitude 4.9) is one of the most interesting objects of the sky, spectroscopically. It is easily visible to the naked eye, but offers no peculiarities to direct observation. As its designation indicates, it is technically a new star. It appeared in the beginning of the seventeenth century and after years of marked fluctuation in brightness, settled down to a constant magnitude. No variation at all has been observed since 1677.

Its spectrum, however, still retains some of the features which characterize that of a *nova*. All of the prominent lines are bright, and each has a strong dark, or absorption, line on its more refrangible side. The lines of the elements hydrogen, helium, nitrogen, and silicon appear thus.

Measures made by the writer of five spectrum plates of this star, taken at the Lick Observatory with the Mills three-prism

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[1] Owing to its northern declination, the comet is already (October 6th) visible in the morning sky, though still east of the Sun.